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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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DE RUMJIR 256 1850920
ZNY CCCCC
R 040813Z JUL 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
RUHHHQA/CINCPAC
ZEN/AMCONSUL DANANG
RUMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
STATE GRNC
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 256

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

LIMDIS

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER JULY 3 GENERAL MANH, V CORPS COMMANDER, STATED THAT THE ARMED FORCES COUNCIL MEETING IN SAIGON FRIDAY JUNE 30 HAD FULLY SETTLED THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THIEU AND KY. BOTH HAD WISHED TO RUN FOR THE

PRESIDENCY BUT WERE TOLD THAT THE ARMED FORCES WOULD FIND SUCH A SITUATION DIFFICULT. THIEU, BEING SENIOR, WAS CHOSEN TO HEAD THE SLATE. KY, WHO WILL BE ABLE TO RUN IN 1971, WAS NOT FORCED TO YIELD. IF THIEU AND KY ARE ELECTED, THEY WILL CHOOSE A CIVILIAN AS PRIME MINISTER. A CIVILIAN UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MILITARY WOULD, ACCORDING TO GENERAL MANH, BE USEFUL.

2. GENERAL MANH SAID THAT GENERAL LOAN'S REMOVAL AS CHIEF OF THE MILITARY SECURITY SERVICE IS NOT VERY SIGNIFICANT. HE HAS BEEN REPLACED BY A GOOD FRIEND AND IN ANY EVENT WILL BE TOO BUSY WITH HIS JOB AS DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL POLICE TO RUN THE MSS AS WELL. THE NATIONAL POLICE HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ELECTIONS WHILE THE MSS DOES NOT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Isenberg DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
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3. MANH SAID IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THIEU AND KY WILL WIN BECUASE MANY PEOPLE DO NOT LIKE THE MILITARY AND THE ELECTION WILL BE FAIRLY CONDUCTED. THE ARMED FORCES WILL NOT ORDER THE SOLDIERS TO VOTE FOR THIEU AND KY BUT MANY WILL ANYWAY. AS FOR THE CANDIDACY OF BIG MINH, GENERAL MANH SAID HE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INTO THE COUNTRY UNTIL ELECTION DAY. IF HE WINS, HOWEVER, HE WILL BE ALLOWED TO STAY. MINH IS NOT LIKED BY THE ARMED FORCES BECAUSE MANY OFFICERS WHO SUPPORTED HIM IN THE 1963 COUP AGAINST DIEM WERE "BETRAYED."

4. GENERAL MANH SAID HE OPPOSES BOTH SUU AND HUONG. HUONG CAUSED A LOT OF TROUBLE WHEN HE WAS IN POWER AND SUU ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING. IT IS BETTER FOR THE PRESENT TO HAVE MILITARY LEADERSHIP BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT IS ESSENTIALLY A MILITARY ORGANIZATION. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT

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TO HAVE A MILITARY MAN TAKING ORDERS FROM CIVILIANS. (IN THIS CONTEXT, GENERAL MANH SAID HE DOES PROPOSE TO APPOINT A CIVILIAN PROVINCE CHIEF IN AN GIANG, BUT NOT UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS. NO CHANGES IN IV CORPS PROVINCE CHIEFS ARE ENVISAGED UNTIL THEN.)

5. COMMENT: GENERAL MANH HAS PROBABLY LEANED TOWARD THIEU FROM THE START BUT IN NO DOUBT RELIEVED OVER THE SETTLEMENT. HE SPECULATED IN EARLY JUNE THAT KY WOULD YIELD.
BUNKER
BT

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